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A VINDICATION  
OF THE  
**CHARACTER**

OF THE  
**REVER'D DAVID HENKEL,**

Residing in Lincoln County, N. C.

*By the Elders, &c. of his several congregations.*

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
November 18th, 1819.

We, the subscribers, do hereby certify that we have been acquainted with the reverend David Henkel for several years past, and who hath lived in our neighbourhood for some length of time, and hath behaved himself as a good neighbour and citizen, and is of good moral character.—Given from under our hands.

Daniel Lutz, esquire,	} <b>ELDERS.</b>
John Ziegel,	
Lorenzo Henderson,	Daniel Ziegel,
Peter Wyan,	Peter Wyan,
Adam Ziegel,	Daniel Michael,
Henry Hoke,	Samuel Yound,
Henry Klein, senr.	Jacob Hauser,
Thomas Huber,	Michael Masteller,
John Jarrett,	Jacob Michael,
Henry Roth, minister	Jacob Haas,
of the Gospel.	John Lohr,
John Hoke,	Rudolph Roth,
John Butts,	P. Heitzog,
Conrad Michael,	Christian Bollinger,

J. M. Motz,	Margareth Sebach, wi-
Samuel Sullivan,	dow
Abraham Hefner,	David Boehm,
John Hefner,	David Dranberg, senr.
Henry Kistler,	David Dranberg, junr.
George Lentz,	George Dranberg,
Jacob Lentz,	Henry Zimmerman,
Philip Gross,	Jacob Klein,
John Trorbach,	Peter Hoyle, esqr.
Henry Klein, junr.	Jonas Rudisel,
John Lyn,	John Brindel,
George Ziegel, senr.	Peter Michael, junr.
George Ziegel, junr.	Daniel Stricker,
Peter Michael, senr.	George Lohr.
Isaiah Pain,	

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LINCOLN COUNTY, N. C.

*January 16th, 1820.*

The subscribers living near the waters of Beaverdam and Longcreek, say the same in substance with respect to the character of the reverend David Henkel, as the above.

Jacob Aderholt,	John Blackwood, esq.
Michael Rudisel,	John Froneberger, jr.
John Boehm,	John Zeller,
George Zeller,	Henry Zeller,
Philip Zeller,	Joshua Roberts,
Jacob Froneberger,	William Froneberger,
John Froneberger,	John Roberts,

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White Haven, LINCOLN COUNTY, N. C.

*Dec. 26th, 1819.*

*To all whom it may concern.*

Be it known, that we, the subscribers, living near and within the neighbourhood of White Haven meeting-house, have been acquainted with the reverend David Henkel for some considerable length of time, as he has

successively preached in the aforesaid meeting house for more than six years, and that we never saw any base conduct in him, as it respects a citizen, a christian, a moral person and a minister of the gospel; and we believe that he aims at the promotion of the welfare of mankind.

Jones Abernathy,  
Miles D. Abernathy,  
William Hager, senr.  
Christian Hager,  
Jacob T. Forney,  
Henry Rudisel,  
John Farrow,  
Jacob Kloninger,  
Battee Abernathy,  
William Hager, junr.

**ELDERS.**

Henry Conner, sr. esq.	Henry Edelman,
John Abernathy,	John Walker, junr.
Abraham Forney,	Drury Kimberl,
Alexander Reed,	Miles W. Abernathy,
John Garner,	W. Robinson,
J. J. Abernathy,	Robert Abernathy,
Philip Pollard,	S. Vaughn,
Nathaniel Farrow,	Joshua Abernathy,
W. Abernathy,	John V. Abernathy,
J. King,	John Little,
John Walker,	Berryman Abernathy,
John V. Cannon,	Philip Whitner,
Peter Edelman,	Wm. Bragg.
W. B. Abernathy.	

Lebanon, LINCOLN COUNTY, N. C.  
January 1st. 1820.

We, the subscribers, living near and within the neighbourhood of Lebanon meeting house, testify the same as those of White Haven do with respect to the conduct of the reverend David Henkel.

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John D. Abernathy,  
 Philip Young,  
 Moses Bumgardner,  
 Mathias Killian,  
 Daniel Killian,  
 Frederick Killian,  
 Alexander Sherril,  
 Charles Beaty,  
 Gabriel Sherril,  
 John Leinberger,  
 Jacob F. Abernathy,  
 Mathias Biry,  
 Jacob Sammet,  
 John Sifford,  
 Moses Abernathy,  
 Thomas Beaty,  
 Michael Kloninger,

} **ELDERS.**  
 Nathan Gualteney,  
 Nicholas Miller,  
 George Edton,  
 Mathias Biry, junr.  
 Daniel Kloninger,  
 Henry Kloninger,  
 John Biry,  
 John Meyers,  
 Thomas Guthry,  
 Jacob Arends,  
 Jesse More,  
 B. Bragg,  
 Frederick Mussgenug

*Philadelphia Church, LINCOLN COUNTY,  
 N. C. December 25th, 1819.*

The subscribers living near and within the neighbourhood of Philadelphia meeting-house also declare that they have known the reverend David Henkel, a long time, (he being also their minister,) and that he has behaved himself as an honest, upright and well behaved person, and as becomes his office.

Michael Costner, senr.

Peter Rein,

John Huffman, senr.

Jacob Best,

Frederick Leinberger,

Lewis Tranberg,

David Rudisel,

Michael Rein,

Frederick Howis,

Lewis Leinberger,

George Basor.

David Smith

} **ELDERS.**

Jacob Costner, junr.

John Howis,

Solomon Shrum,

Peter Summey,

David Summey,

John Summey,

Thomas Berry,

John Hoyle,



John Leinberger,	T. Ramsey,
Adam Kloninger,	Margareth Hoyle, wi-
George Howis,	dow
Christian Best,	Michael Best,
David Kloninger,	Jacob Rein,
Jesse Elmore,	Samuel Hasled,
Michael Rein, junr.	Samuel Wells,
John Hofman, junr.	Joseph Jenkins,
Lewis Clemmer,	W. McBreedy,
Solomon Dottero,	David Jenkins,
Christian Roth,	Samuel Best,
John Hofman,	Adam Hufstattler,
Jacob Rein,	William Jenkins,
Solomon Rein,	John Rein,
Daniel Rein,	Michael Rein,
William Centre,	Michael Leinberger,
John Shrum,	Randel Elmore,
Michael Summey,	Jonathan Tranberg,
Jonas Hofman,	Michael Costner, jun.
Jacob Howis,	David Troutman,
George Basor, junr.	Joseph Hofman,
Hugh Jenkins,	Moses Kloninger,
John Stroup,	Jonas Costner,
Moses Dellinger,	Lewis Dellinger,
Jonas Friday,	Jonas Stroup,
David Basor,	Jacob Stroup,
Elizabeth Friday, wi-	Eli Clemmer,
dow.	Henry Hope,
Christian Summey,	Jacob Plank,
Jonathan Dottero,	John Carpenter,
Daniel Huffman,	John Dottero,
Nicholas Friday,	John Clemmer.
Jacob Costner, senr.	

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*St. John's Church, LINCOLN COUNTY,*  
N. C. *January 8th, 1820.*

We, the subscribers, living near and within  
the neighbourhood of St. John's church, feel

ourselves in duty bound to protect the innocent and to defend those who are falsely accused.— The reverend David Henkel has preached in this neighbourhood, and has been the regular minister of St. John's church for more than five years : we do hereby certify that said David Henkel has always conducted himself among us like an honest, upright and well behaved person, and as a man of truth. All evil reports which are afloat about him, have no manner of weight with us not to esteem him as a worthy minister of the gospel, as we know his character and standing too well.

John Stein, senr.

Peter Little, esqr.

Christopher Siegman.

John Smith,

Peter Hoke,

John Eisenhauer,

Frederick Hoke, esq.

Daniel Hoke,

Frederick Hoke, junr.

Lewis Haeffer, senr.

Lewis Haeffer, junr.

Andrew Killian,

Jacob Weik,

John Weik,

Jacob Stein,

Daniel Stein,

Jacob Deal,

George Siegman, senr.

John Setzer,

Mathias Barringer,

Bernhard Bauer,

Henry Egross,

William Siegman,

Henry Siegman,

John Miller,

Adam Bolich,

*ELDERS.*

Moses Justus,

Andrew Fullbright,

George Smith,

Daniel Woodring,

William Hainen,

Andrew Shook,

Christopher Hofman,

Henry Degenhart,

John Stein,

Jacob Kibler,

Henry Shook,

Philip Staway,

Alexander Grayham,

Peter Little, junr.

Jacob Little,

John Noll,

Jacob Bastian, senr.

Jacob Bastian, junr.

Jacob Lewis,

Aaron Townson,

Anthony Muss,  
 Jacob Hofman,  
 Conrad Weinberger,  
 George Legal,  
 Daniel Eisenhauser,  
 Dewald Grund  
 Henry Stein,  
 Frederick Mock,  
 David Alexander,  
 Michael Hefner,  
 Philip Hetrich,  
 Henry Tritt,  
 John Fullbright,  
 Nicholas Zimmerman,  
 John Tritt,  
 Andrew Hoke,  
 Peter Rees,  
 Jacob Rees,  
 Samuel Lusk,  
 Joseph Oliver,  
 John Hoke,  
 Adam Bolich,  
 Daniel Yount,  
 William Fullbright,  
 Leonard Klein,  
 Jacob Seip,  
 Jacob Legel,  
 Peter Legel,  
 Adam Kuntz,  
 William Odam,  
 Joseph Shook,  
 William Eckert,  
 Henry Yount,  
 John Siegman,  
 John Sammet,  
 George Shook,  
 Andrew Yount,  
 Jacob Fullbright,  
 John Stein, junr.

Christopher Lewis,  
 John Degenhart,  
 George Muss,  
 Daniel Setzer,  
 Benedict Levan,  
 Philip Eisenhauer,  
 Adam Grund,  
 Daniel Bauman,  
 Martin Eisenhauer,  
 John Miller, junr.  
 Solomon Hetrich,  
 John Weber,  
 Simon Eckert,  
 John Miller,  
 Peter Noll,  
 Godfrey Bolich,  
 John Yount,  
 Hugh Warren,  
 James Williams,  
 Frederick Gryder,  
 James Cowan,  
 Robert Warren,  
 Martin Gryder,  
 Joshua Warren,  
 Elijah Warren,  
 Anderson Sherril,  
 Peter Mock,  
 John Zeller,  
 Conrad Zeller,  
 Ephraim Christopher,  
 Henry Degenhart, jr.  
 Dewald Little,  
 Hugh Warren, senr.  
 Robert Warren, junr.  
 Daniel Warren,  
 Bernhard Moser,  
 Thomas Oliver,  
 Joseph Legel,  
 John Legel,

Jacob Miller,  
 John Kloninger,  
 Ephraim Yount,  
 Daniel Car,  
 Henry Grund,

John Hefner,  
 John Hetrich, junr.  
 B. Siegman,  
 S. Moser.

# MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N. C.

*November 20th, 1820.*

Whereas the reverend David Henkel, who resides in Lincoln county as a citizen, has frequently for several years past visited this county, and especially our neighbourhood, so that we have become well acquainted with him and his conduct, we therefore at request certify that he has ever since we know him, conducted himself like an honest, sober, sedate and familiar person. As a minister he has done honour to his office.

John Harky, senr.  
 Wm. McRee, esq.  
 Alexander Irwin,  
 William McCall,  
 L. D. Collins,  
 Ezekiel Black,  
 Robert Hood,  
 Matthew Wallace,  
 John Keigel,  
 D. Karr,  
 John Orr,  
 Robert Harrison,  
 David Purvine,  
 Elias Massey,  
 Alexander McRee,  
 Azariah Coburn,  
 Adam Fisher,  
 Samuel Yandle,  
 Henry Long,  
 Henry Hagler.

Robert Faires,  
 William Rice,  
 John Irwin,  
 John Long,  
 Archibald Polk,  
 James Blair,  
 William Karr,  
 Jacob Long,  
 Christian Keicher,  
 Leonard Hagler,  
 Peter Harky,  
 John Hertis,  
 Martin Hertis,  
 Samuel Bain,  
 Daniel Wentz,  
 Hamilton Black,  
 Henry Hertis,  
 Robert Yandle,  
 Samuel Smith,



John Bain,	John Wentz,
Nicholas Stern, senr.	Joseph Wolf,
Tobias Stern,	Jeremiah Wentz,
Anthony Hertis,	Valentine Stern,
John Rumpel,	Solomon Harky,
Philemon Morris, esq.	Nicholas Stern, junr.
Zebulon Morris,	Nicholas Phifer,
Sugar Dulin,	Claborn Freeman,
James Morris,	George Keicher,
Andrew Wentz,	Simon Graul,
Jacob Stern,	John Cuthbertson,
John Harky, junr.	Adam Long,
John McReaven,	Henry Long, junr.
Benjamin Fincher,	Jacob Glantz,
Joshua Teater,	Jacob Wolf,
Robert Bain,	Hosea McCain.

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The following is a copy of a letter from Lancaster district, S. C. which was sent to the reverend David Henkel's congregations in Lincoln county, which shews his behaviour in a distant neighbourhood. The letter was written in consequence of an evil report circulated by an individual from Lincoln county in that district and state:

*State of South Carolina,*

LANCASTER DISTRICT, *Dec. 17th, 1819.*

We, the subscribers, are acquainted with the reverend David Henkel, as he has frequently preached the gospel to us, and he has always conducted himself among us as becomes a christian and a minister; but being interrupted by a letter and an advertisement from \*\*\*\*\* in which many unfavourable representations are made concerning Mr. Henkel's character; yet, from the acquaintance we have with him, we scarcely give credit to such evil reports; nevertheless, that we may

be the better satisfied we do hereby send Messrs. John Funderburg, Henry Plyler and John M. Vail into your county, where he lives and is better known, in order to make an enquiry among you of his character. Please to give us a true statement of Mr. Henkel's conduct among you, and also of Mr. \*\*\*\*\*'s behaviour towards him, as we wish to keep Mr. Henkel as our teacher, provided we find his character from you to be the same as it is with us. Gentlemen your humble servants.

*To the Congregations of the reverend David Henkel, in Lincoln County, N. C.*

James Holliman,	Jacob Plyler, senr.
John Clark,	Jacob Plyler, junr.
Martin Plyler,	Frederick Shehane,
Mathias Beaver,	Henry Funderburg,
William Rowel, senr.	Cornelius Holliman,
William Rowel, junr.	Andrew Rowel,
Samuel Rowel,	Philip Aaron,
N. Funderburg,	David Funderburg,
Augustus Rowel,	Jeremiah Funderburg,
Thomas Belk,	Aaron Poer,
Paul Plyler,	James Clark,
Andrew Tailor,	Jesse Williams,
William Casky,	Burrel Blackman,
Jacob Funderburg,	John Robertson:
Samuel Funderburg,	

N. B.—It is to be observed that they were satisfactorily answered agreeable to their request.

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*South Carolina,*

YORK DISTRICT, *January 13th, 1820.*

This is to certify that the reverend David Henkel has frequented this neighbourhood for some length of time, and has likewise visited

my house and has repeatedly preached in this neighbourhood, and baptised part of my family and several others, and in my opinion is a worthy minister agreeable to the plan of the gospel.

James Wylie, M. D.

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## DEAR READER.

YOU see many names subscribed to the vindication of the reputation of the reverend *David Henkel*. Many of the subscribers are members of his own different congregations, and many are members of other christian churches or societies, and various characters, who are personally acquainted with the said *David Henkel*, who well know his conduct and behaviour, who have had many opportunities to prove the doctrine which he taught in public and in private conversations.

You ask the cause or reason for this publication which is briefly here stated unto you : At an extempore Synod held by the Lutheran ministry on the 25th of April, and several days following in the year 1819, at Buffaloe creek meeting-house, Cabarrus county, North Carolina, several unfavourable accusations were brought against the said *David Henkel*, stating that he had given great offence to his fellow christians of other religious denominations in his public sermons, and in particular those of the presbyterians—and that he had preached and taught doctrines erroneous and contrary to the doctrine of the holy scriptures. He was

also accused as acting partially and uncharitably against one of the members of his own congregations, excluding him from the fellowship of the church without a just cause. He was also accused that he had injured the character and reputation of another gentleman, by spreading false reports against him. All these charges said *David Henkel* denied, and refers to the next Synod to be examined and decided.

Several of these accusations judged to be grounded on truth, and advertised by the officers in the proceedings of said extempore Synod. Now whether this was from a conscientious discharge of the office they bear, agreeable to the constitution, as they declare to maintain the honour of the christian church. It was nevertheless judged necessary and expedient to take the testimonies of the above subscribers, who as aforesaid have knowledge of these matters, and many who are members of his own congregations, who have as impartially examined into the case as well as those who were members of the Synod for the sake of their own honour and welfare of their congregations. Was it not the case, we may be sure they would not have subscribed their names to such an important matter as this. It is not with the intention or design to censure the judgment of the Synod in this matter, some no doubt, and perhaps all may have been candid in their opinions—but none can have a just cause to blame said *David Henkel* for endeavouring to maintain his own honour and reputation in the important office which he bears, the public is left to judge. Had he not been published as a malicious man, he would have never published any thing of this kind in defence of himself.